

Remarks

Claims 1-17 are pending in the application.

Objections to the drawings

FIG. 1 was objected to. In accordance with the suggestion of the Office Action, the legend "PRIOR ART" has been added to FIG. 1. Withdrawal of the objection is therefore respectfully requested.

FIGs. 5 and 6 were objected to. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested in view of the amendment to FIG. 5 submitted herewith.

FIG. 6, though not objected to, has been amended to correct a minor informality noted therein.

A request for approval of the proposed drawing changes has been submitted herewith on a separate sheet.

Objections to the specification

The specification was objected to for some alleged informalities. In response to the comments regarding the specification on page 5, lines 3-4, the specification has been amended on page 5, lines 3-4 as set forth above. Withdrawal of the objection concerning this portion of the specification is therefore respectfully requested.

With regard to the other alleged informalities, however, while the Applicant thanks the Examiner for his suggestions, the Applicant respectfully declines to further amend the specification. That the language of the specification is in places "awkward" or "redundant" in the opinion of the Examiner is not believed to constitute a flaw that bears on the question of whether the present application meets the statutory requirements for patentability.

Further, concerning the comments regarding "e.g." (exempli gratia) as opposed to "i.e." (id est), it is understood that the Examiner believes that "id est"

(meaning, "that is") is more consistent with the Applicant's intended meaning. However, it is noted that "exempli gratia" is not incorrect as a matter of language, and that "id est" can be narrower than "exempli gratia" since it can define a one-to-one identity between elements (for example, "a dog, i.e., a cocker spaniel"). Thus, the Examiner's requirement that "e.g." be amended to "i.e." amounts to a requirement that the Applicant narrow the scope of his disclosure; however, this is not believed to be within the Examiner's purview. Withdrawal of this requirement is therefore respectfully requested.

Finally, concerning the objection to the specification in connection with the apparent inconsistency between the specification at page 13, lines 1-4, and FIGs. 5-6, the Applicant believes that the proposed amendment of FIG. 5 remedies the inconsistency. Withdrawal of this objection is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim rejections

Claims 1-4, 7-9, and 11-17 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Georgiou et al. (US 5,940,785; hereinafter "Georgiou").

To anticipate a claim under § 102, a single prior art reference must identically disclose each and every claim element. See Lindeman Maschinenfabrik v. American Hoist and Derrick, 730 F.2d 1452, 1458 (Fed. Cir. 1984). If any claimed element is absent from a prior art reference, it cannot anticipate the claim. See Rowe v. Dror, 112 F.3d 473, 478 (Fed. Cir. 1997).

In view of the foregoing authority, the asserted rejection cannot be sustained for at least the reason that Georgiou does not disclose a performance demanding level input to determine a level of sensitivity for frequency reduction as required by claim 1, or the limitation "based on determining a level of sensitivity for frequency reduction" as required by each of independent claims 7 and 12. Therefore, independent claims 1, 7 and 12 are allowable over Georgiou. Moreover, since the dependent claims incorporate the limitations of the

independent claims, they are likewise allowable for at least the reasons discussed in connection with the independent claims. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4, 7-9, and 11-17 is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 5 and 10 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Georgiou in view of Herbert (US 5,798,667).

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness under § 103, all claim limitations of a claimed invention must be taught or suggested by the prior art. See MPEP, Section 2143.03 and In re Royka, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974).

In view of the foregoing authority, claims 5 and 10 are allowable over Georgiou and Herbert for at least the reason that they respectively incorporate the limitations of claims 1 and 7. As discussed earlier, Georgiou does not teach or suggest determining a level of sensitivity for frequency reduction as required by claim 7, or a performance demanding level input therefor, as required by claim 1. Herbert is also silent as to this feature. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5 and 10 as unpatentable over Georgiou and Herbert is therefore respectfully requested.

Conclusion

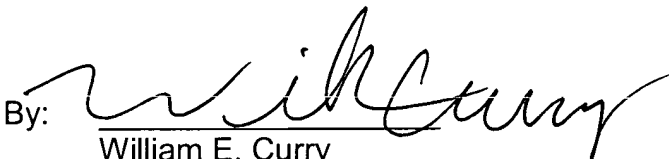
In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in all aspects in allowable condition, and earnestly solicits favorable reconsideration and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4323 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 related to this communication to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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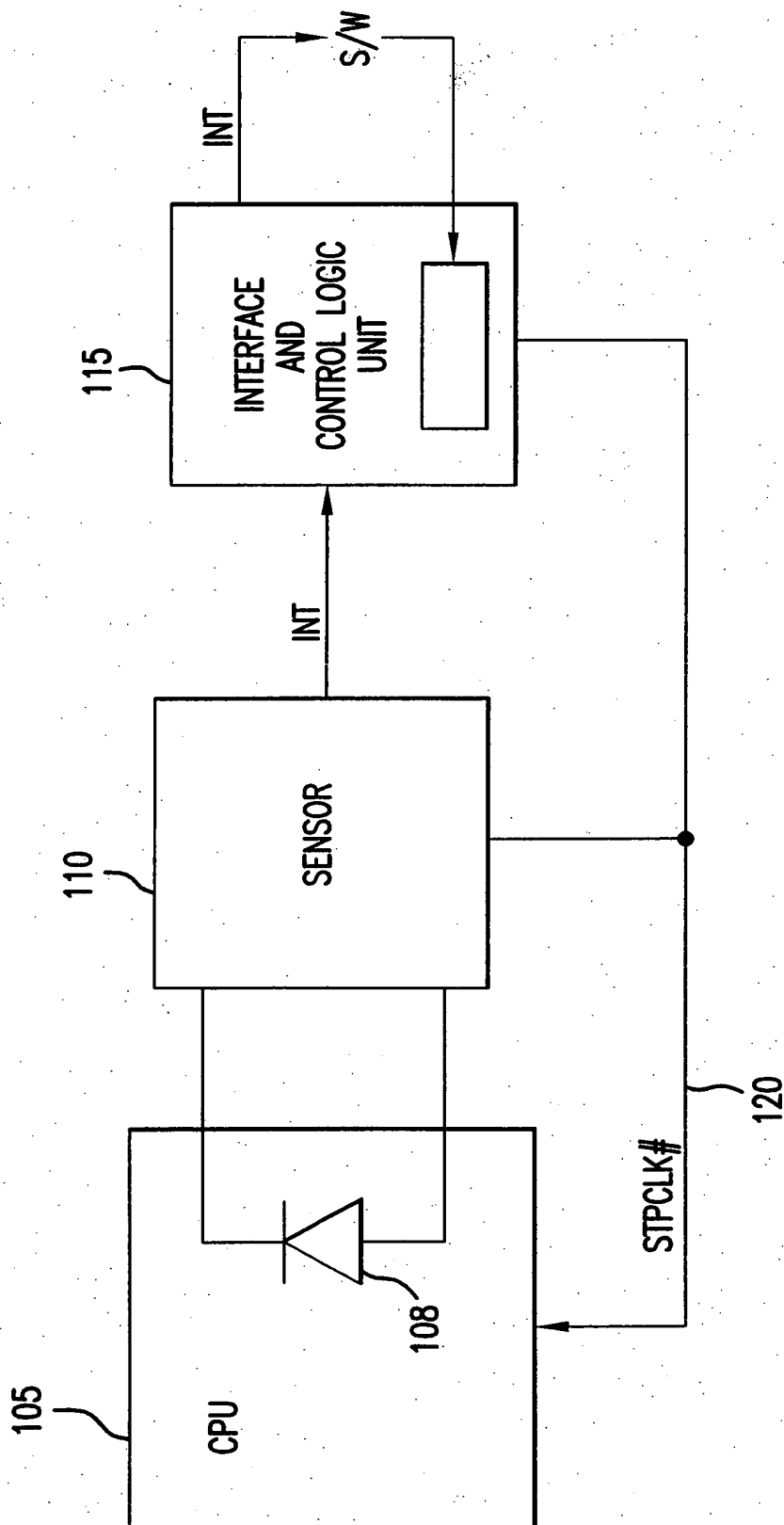
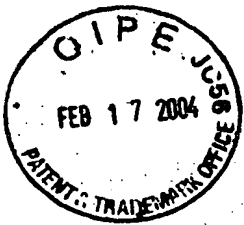


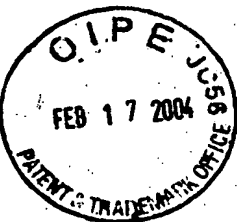
FIG.1
PRIOR ART



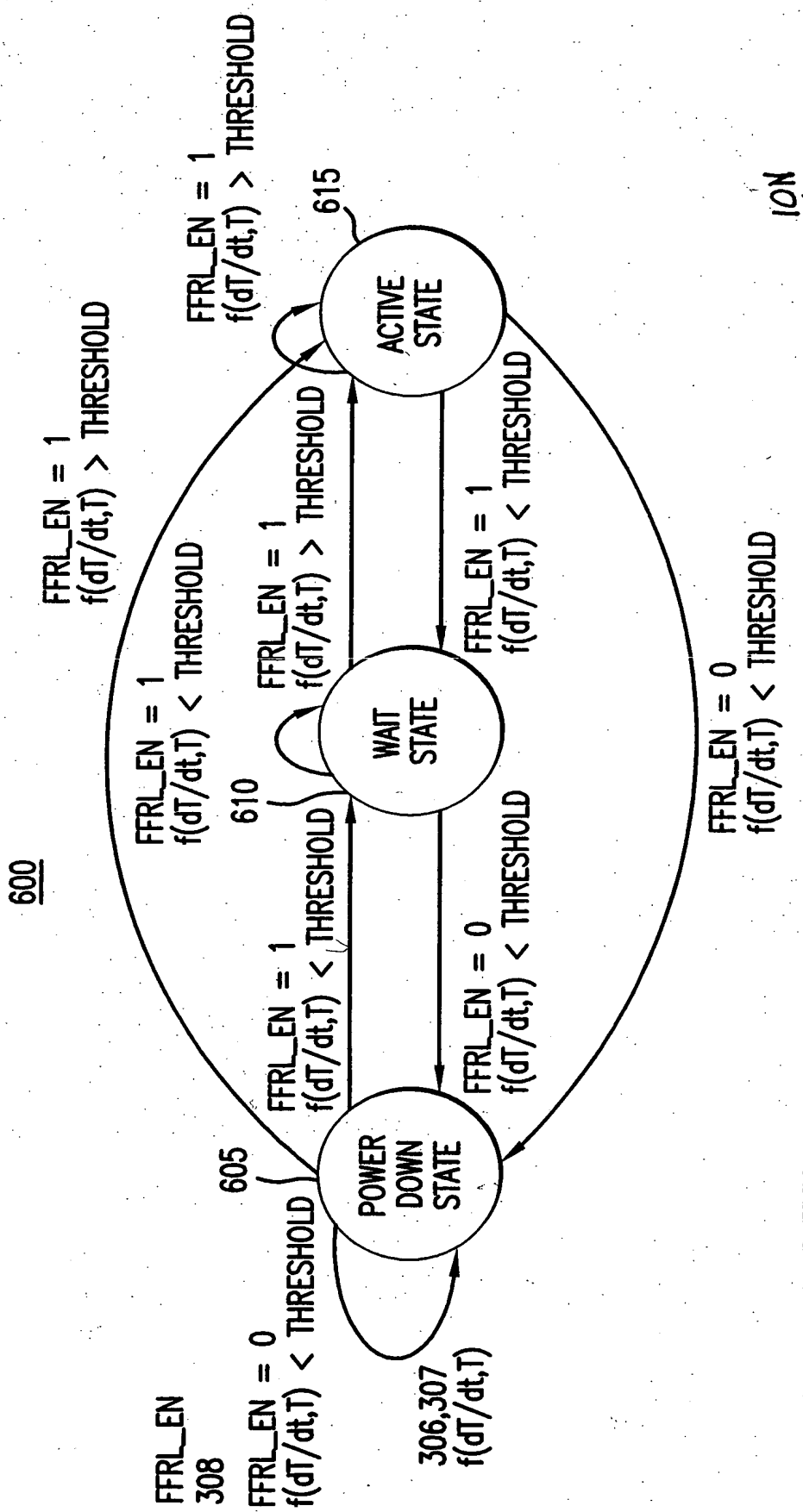
500

FFRL_EN	dT/dt	THERMAL TEMPERATURE	CURRENT LOGIC STATE	PREV. LOGIC STATE
0 (NOT NEAR MAXIMAL THERMAL LIMIT)	NOT CARE	NOT CARE	POWER DOWN	POWER DOWN
0 (NOT NEAR MAXIMAL THERMAL LIMIT)	NOT CARE	NOT CARE	POWER DOWN	WAIT
0 (NOT NEAR MAXIMAL THERMAL LIMIT)	NOT CARE	NOT CARE	POWER DOWN	ACTIVE
1 (NEAR MAXIMAL THERMAL LIMIT)	<0.2 (SLOW RATE)	<MAX. TEMPERATURE-δt	POWER DOWN	POWER DOWN
1 (NEAR MAXIMAL THERMAL LIMIT)	>0.2 (SLOW RATE)	<MAX. TEMPERATURE- δt	WAIT	POWER DOWN
1 (NEAR MAXIMAL THERMAL LIMIT)	<0.2 (SLOW RATE)	<MAX. TEMPERATURE- δt	POWER DOWN WAIT	WAIT ACTIVE
1 (NEAR MAXIMAL THERMAL LIMIT)	>0.2 (SLOW RATE)	<MAX. TEMPERATURE- δt	WAIT	WAIT
1 (NEAR MAXIMAL THERMAL LIMIT)	NOT CARE	>MAX. TEMPERATURE- δt	ACTIVE	POWER DOWN
1 (NEAR MAXIMAL THERMAL LIMIT)	NOT CARE	>MAX. TEMPERATURE- δt	ACTIVE	WAIT
1 (NEAR MAXIMAL THERMAL LIMIT)	NOT CARE	>MAX. TEMPERATURE- δt	ACTIVE	ACTIVE

FIG.5



LOGIC STATES DIAGRAM OF FAST FREQUENCY REDUCTION
LOGIC (FFRL)



FFRL_EN: FAST FREQUENCY REDUCTION LOGIC ENABLE SIGNAL; THRESHOLD: LOGIC STATE TRANSITION THRESHOLD;
dT/dt: TEMPERATURE CHANGING RATE; T: THERMAL TEMPERATURE; $f(dT/dt, T)$: FUNCTION OF dT/dt AND T

FIG.6